

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the claims set forth in the Office Action of March 9, 2006 are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Status of the claims

Claims 1-20 and 30 are pending.

Claim 30 is allowed.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 2-20 stand objected to.

Claims 1 and 21-29 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 13, and 30 have been amended.

None of the amendments to the claims introduces new matter.

Oath / Declaration

The Examiner has required a substitute oath or declaration. Enclosed herewith is a declaration executed by two of the three joint inventors. Joint inventor Mr. Osgood has signed on behalf of non-signing inventor Mr. Ramadan, who cannot be reached. Concurrently with this Response, Applicant is filing a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.183 and a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 which describes the facts relied on to establish that a diligent effort was made to reach Mr. Ramadan.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,571,031 to Augustsson (“the Augustsson reference”). Applicant has canceled claim 1 of the instant application without prejudice, rendering the rejection of this claim moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-20 contain allowable subject matter, but are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant has rewritten claim 2 in independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Applicant has also amended claims 4, 8, 13, and 30 in order to correct minor typographical errors. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 2-20.

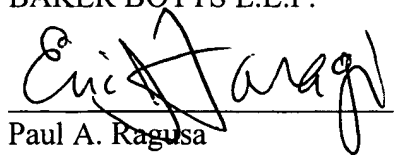
Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowance of claim 30.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested. A check in payment of the three month extension of time in the amount of \$510 is enclosed. Applicant does not believe that any additional fee is required in connection with the submission of this document. However, should any additional fee be required, or if any overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit or any overpayments made, to Deposit Account 02-4377.

Respectfully submitted,
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